

BY: Senator MURRAY

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026, as Distracted Driving Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026, as Distracted Driving Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April is a united effort to recognize the dangers of and eliminate preventable deaths from distracted driving; and

WHEREAS, Every day, at least nine Americans die and 100 are injured in distracted driving crashes; cell phones, dashboard touchscreens, voice commands and other in-vehicle technologies pose a threat to public safety; and

WHEREAS, Distracted driving includes not only technological distractions, but also eating, talking to passengers, smoking, adjusting dashboard or other vehicle controls; and

WHEREAS, The best way to end distracted driving is to educate all Americans on the danger it poses; each and every death is 100 percent preventable; just one second of your attention is all it takes to change a life forever; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in the United States in 2021, 3,522 people were killed as a result of distracted driving, and 362,415 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers; and

WHEREAS, According to the NHTSA, in 2021, eight percent of fatal crashes, 14 percent of injury crashes, and 13 percent of all police-reported motor vehicle crashes were reported as distraction-affected crashes; and

WHEREAS, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated that crashes caused by distracted driving in 2019, had a societal harm cost of \$395 billion when factoring in quality of life valuations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness on the dangers of distracted driving, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, state and national levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026, as Distracted Driving Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.